

Seattle Police Email Community Newsletter

November 28, 2012



Dear Community Friends,

Recent Robberies

Over the past several weeks there have been a number of reported armed robberies.

On November 16th, Just before 9:30 pm, an armed suspect pulled a gun on the owner of Venus Seafood Restaurant (Martin Luther King Jr Way. S. and S. Myrtle ST) and demanded cash. The suspect then fled the scene in a silver two-door Honda Civic driven by a second man. The suspects' Civic had a sun roof, tinted side rear windows and possibly had a tinted rear window, and no front license plate.

On November 18th, the same two suspects robbed the Spring Roll House Deli on 12th Ave. and S. Main Street. The two suspects pulled guns on six women inside the business, stole cash and jewelry from the victims, and then forced them into a bathroom and told them not to call police.

On November 22nd, the suspects hit another business at Martin Luther King Jr Way. S. and S. Myrtle ST, again forcing a group of women at a hair salon into a bathroom, where they zip-tied their hands and robbed them at gunpoint for cash and jewelry.

Shortly after 6 pm on November 24, the suspects held up employees at a nail salon on Rainier Avenue S. and S. Findlay ST, again forcing employees into a back room at gunpoint, where they tied them up before robbing them.

Detectives believe the suspects in the above robberies, both Vietnamese men in the 30s, both approximately 5'7-5'8 and 150-160 pounds, are targeting Vietnamese-owned businesses, and are looking for any information to help track these men down. If you recognize either suspect or have seen their vehicle, please contact SPD's Robbery Unit at (206) 684-5535. Anonymous tips are welcome.

Unrelated was a robbery on November 24th, in which a man armed with a knife stole prescription drugs from a pharmacy. At approximately 9:09 am that day, an adult male suspect entered a pharmacy in the 5400 block of Rainier Avenue S., produced a knife and demanded the employees hand over drugs. The suspect fled with an unknown quantity of prescription drugs and remains at large. Nobody was injured during the robbery. The suspect was described as a Hispanic or Southeast Asian male in his late 20's, 5'5" tall with facial hair and last seen wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt and jeans. Anyone with information about this incident or who may know the identity or whereabouts of the suspect is asked to call 911 or the Seattle Police Robbery Unit at (206) 684-5535 and refer to this incident. Anonymous tips are welcome.

Personal Safety/Robbery Prevention & Response: Best Practices For Businesses

For business owners and employees, we want to provide some best practices to follow if you are confronted with a robbery situation.

Before A Robbery

- Remove any signs or posters in windows that inhibit visibility. You want to be able to see what's happening outside the business and who is outside the business, and you want neighboring businesses and passers-by people to be able to see in.
- Depending on your business, you may want to verify your customers before they enter. Can your business be locked and you unlock the doors or buzz in expected clients.
- Install video cameras that provide coverage of all entrances into the business.

During A Robbery

The safety of your associates and customers is the most important goal.

- If your store is equipped with a panic button, press the button **ONLY** if it is safe to do so.
- Remain calm and speak to the robber in low tones.
- Do not do anything to jeopardize your safety or the safety of others.
- Do not make any sudden moves, scream, or point.
- Cooperate and obey the instructions of the robber(s). Do not fight with armed perpetrators
- Do not attempt to stop, detain, follow, or chase a robber.
- Watch if they touch any objects at the store (possible fingerprints); right-hander or left-hander?
- Note what they say to the victims and each other. Note any accent or dialect.
- Mentally note the physical description of the robber, including any distinguishing characteristics, such as scars, tattoos, facial hair (beard, moustache, sideburns) hairstyle.
- Try to remember their face, but do not stare at them to the point of aggravating them.
- Remember their approximate height. If your establishment does not have height markers at the door, you should install them as soon as possible. If there are no height markers, you can observe the suspects height by noting a point of reference on the door frame or near the door upon the robber's exit.
- Note any vehicle information, such as maker and model, color, number of doors, any special features of the vehicle, and license plate number if you can get it

Following A Robbery

- Call 911 as soon as possible right after the crime. Do not wait. Any delay in calling police delays a response and diminishes our ability to get in the area quickly and locate the robbers.
- Do not attempt to follow the robber.
- Preserve the crime scene.
 - Secure the premises; lock the doors. Do not let anyone into the store until the police arrive.
 - Do not let anyone touch anything the robber(s) touched.
- Write down everything you remember about the robber(s) and robbery.
 - Each person in the business should separately write down a description of the robber(s) and any escape vehicle and license plate number if it was noticed.
- Provide detailed information only to properly identified law enforcement authorities.
- Inform all associates and customers of what has happened.
- Ask an associate to obtain names and addresses of all witnesses, including customers that are on premises.
- Allow customers to leave upon request following obtaining their information. However, it would be preferable for all who were present during the robbery to stay so they can give their statements to police.
- Call your emergency contacts:
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____

Document All Incidents/Expenses For Your Records And Insurance Purposes:

- Ensure that all damaged merchandise and/or product is recorded for proper adjustment.
- Document all incidents, damage, and expenses related to the emergency.

Thank you for all you do for your neighborhoods. Until next time, Take Care and Stay Safe!

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